Amendments to the Claims:

Please re-write the claims as set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) An educational product evaluation method implemented by a computer, the method comprising:

storing business goal rule data in memory of the computer, the business goal rule data representing a business organization's goals with respect to employee training;

analyzing an educational product, wherein an education product includes an instructor led face-to-face course, a self-study course or a virtual course, based on the stored business goal rule data; and

displaying, on a display associated with the computer, an education product summary indicating an alignment of said educational product to said business organization's goals with respect to employee training.

2.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein analyzing the educational product and displaying an education product summary indicating an alignment of said educational product to said business organization's goals with respect to employee training includes generating at least one educational product alignment value, for indicating the alignment of said educational product to said business organization's goals with respect to employee training, for the educational product based on plurality of educational product evaluation category values and the stored business goal rule data.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes storing data representing rules defined for a plurality of desired business goals wherein the business goal rule data represents data used to determine how the educational product measures against at least one of: a strategic importance level, a cost effectiveness level and an educational product impact level.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 including presenting the educational product alignment value for a user.

5. (Currently Amended) An educational product evaluation method implemented by a computer, the method comprising:

storing business goal rule data in memory of the computer, the business goal rule data representing a business organization's goals with respect to employee training;

generating a plurality of educational product alignment values, for indicating the alignment of each educational product to said business organization's goals with respect to employee training, for each of a plurality of educational products, based on a plurality of associated plurality of educational product evaluation category values and the stored business goal rule data, wherein an educational product evaluation category value represents at least one of tuition, duration, participant rating or a priority of course with a content area;

generating, for each educational product of interest, an overall business alignment value based on the plurality of educational product alignment values; and

generating an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of the plurality of educational products, wherein said plurality of

educational products includes at least one of an instructor led face-to-face course, a self-study course or a virtual course.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes storing data representing rules defined for a plurality of desired business goals wherein the business goal rule data represents at least one of: a strategic importance level, a cost effectiveness level and an educational product impact level.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 including generating the educational product summary to contain the plurality of educational product alignment values corresponding to each of the plurality of educational products.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 including presenting the educational product summary for a user.

9. (Original) The method of claim 5 including generating the plurality of educational product alignment values for each of a plurality of educational products based on received weighting values associated with each of the plurality of educational product alignment values.

10. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein generating the plurality of educational product alignment values for each of a plurality of educational products includes generating a strategic importance alignment value, a cost effectiveness alignment value and an educational product impact alignment value.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the strategic importance alignment value is based on a strategic importance priority level data of an educational content area and on at least course hours for the educational products associated with the educational content area; the cost effectiveness alignment value is based on at least a number of ours per educational product and a cost of the educational product; and the educational product impact alignment value is based on at least participant rating data and usage data associated with the educational product.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 11 including presenting a content area importance table that visually differentiates each strategic importance priority level data for each educational content area.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes providing a cost threshold input interface operative to receive cost thresholds for different types of educational products.

14.   (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes providing an educational product time input interface operative to receive time threshold data for different types of educational products.

15. (Original) The method of claim 10 including generating a cost effectiveness alignment value matrix containing at least description data relating to different cost scores and different corresponding time scores.

16. (Original) The method of claim 7 including generating the education product summary to include corresponding description data for each educational product and for each educational product alignment value for each educational product.

17. (Original) The method of claim 5 including generating an overall business alignment value range graphic element containing sub ranges corresponding to different degrees of alignment with corresponding business goal rule data.

18. (Original) The method of claim 5 including generating a graphic element illustrating educational product penetration compared to a group of educational products.

19. (Original) The method of claim 5 including generating an educational product content redundancy map indicating which educational products include subject matter that is pertinent to multiple strategic subject categories.

20. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein generating the educational product summary includes providing a graphic element representing the educational product summary including visual coding of the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

21.   (Currently Amended) An educational product evaluation method <u>implemented by</u> <u>a computer, the method</u> comprising:

storing business goal rule data <u>in memory of the computer</u>, the business goal rule data representing a business organization's goals with respect to employee training;

generating a plurality of educational product alignment values for each of a plurality of educational products, said alignment values indicating the alignment of each educational product to said business organization's goals with respect to employee training, wherein the educational products include educational courses including at least one of an instructor led face-to-face course, a self-study course or a virtual course, based on a plurality of associated plurality of educational product evaluation category values and the stored business goal rule data;

storing each of the plurality of educational product alignment values <u>in the memory of the</u> <u>computer</u>;

generating, for each educational product of interest, an overall business alignment value based on the plurality of stored educational product alignment values;

generating an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of the plurality of educational products and the plurality of stored educational product alignment values that include: a strategic importance alignment value, a cost effectiveness alignment value and an educational product impact alignment value; and

wherein the strategic importance alignment value is based on strategic importance priority level data of an educational content area and on at least course hours for the educational products associated with the educational content area; the cost effectiveness alignment value is based on at least a number of ours per educational product and a cost of the educational product;

and the educational product impact alignment value is based on at least participant rating data and usage data associated with the educational products.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21 including presenting a content area importance table that visually differentiates each strategic importance priority level data for each educational content area.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes providing a cost threshold input interface operative to receive cost thresholds for different types of educational products.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein storing the business goal rule data includes providing an educational product time input interface operative to receive time threshold data for different types of educational products.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 24 including generating a cost effectiveness alignment value matrix containing at least description data relating to different cost scores and different corresponding time scores.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 25 including generating the education product summary to include corresponding description data for each educational product and for each educational product alignment value for each educational product.

27.   (Original) The method of claim 21 including generating an overall business alignment value range graphic element containing sub ranges corresponding to different degrees of alignment with corresponding business goal rule data.

28.   (Original) The method of claim 21 including generating a graphic element illustrating educational product penetration compared to a group of educational products.

29.   (Original) The method of claim 21 including generating an educational product content redundancy map indicating which educational products include subject matter that is pertinent to multiple strategic subject categories.

30.   (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein generating the educational product summary includes providing a graphic element representing the educational product summary including visual coding the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

31.   (Previously Presented) An educational product evaluation apparatus comprising:
        at least one processing device; and
        memory containing executable instructions that when executed by the at least one processing device, causes the at least one processing device to:
                store business goal rule data, the business goal rule data representing a business organization's goals with respect to employee training; and

generate at least one educational product alignment value for an educational product based on a plurality of educational product evaluation category values and the stored business goal rule data, wherein said at least one educational product alignment value indicates the alignment of said educational product to said business organization's goals with respect to employee training, wherein said educational product evaluation category values represent at least one of tuition, duration, participant rating or a priority of course with a content area, wherein said educational product is one of an instructor led face-to-face course, a self-study course or a virtual course.

32. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 wherein the stored business goal rule data represents rules defined for a plurality of desired business goals wherein the business goal rule data represents data used to determine how the educational product measures against at least one of: a strategic importance level, a cost effectiveness level and an educational product impact level.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 31 including a display operatively coupled to the at least one processing device, and wherein the at least one processing device controls presentation of the educational product alignment value on the display for a user.

34. (Previously Presented) An educational product evaluation apparatus comprising:
at least one processing device; and
memory containing executable instructions that when executed by the at least one processing device, causes the at least one processing device to:

store business goal rule data, the business goal rule data representing a business organization's goals with respect to employee training, and provide a source of a plurality of educational product evaluation category values;

generate a plurality of educational product alignment values, for indicating the alignment of each educational product to said business organization's goals with respect to employee training, for each of a plurality of educational products, based on an associated plurality of educational product evaluation category values obtained from the plurality of educational product evaluation category values source and the stored business goal rule data, wherein an educational product evaluation category value represents at least one of tuition, duration, participant rating or a priority of course with a content area; and

generate, for each educational product of interest, an overall business alignment value based on the plurality of educational product alignment values; and to generate an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of the plurality of educational products values that include: a strategic importance alignment value, a cost effectiveness alignment value and an educational product impact alignment value; and

wherein the strategic importance alignment value is based on a strategic importance priority level data of an educational content area and on at least course hours for the educational products associated with the educational content area; the cost effectiveness alignment value is based on at least a number of ours per educational product and a cost of the educational product; and the educational product impact alignment value is based on at least participant rating data and usage data associated with the educational product, wherein said plurality of educational products includes at least one of an instructor led face-to-face course, a self-study course or a virtual course.

35.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to present a content area importance table that visually differentiates each strategic importance priority level data for each educational content area.

36.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to provide a cost threshold input interface operative to receive cost thresholds for different types of educational products.

37.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to provide an educational product time input interface operative to receive time threshold data for different types of educational products.

38.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to generate a cost effectiveness alignment value matrix containing at least description data relating to different cost scores and different corresponding time scores.

39.   (Previously Presented) A storage medium comprising:

memory containing executable instructions that when executed by the at least one processing device, causes the at least one processing device to:

store business goal rule data, the business goal rule data representing a business organization's goals with respect to employee training, and provide a plurality of educational product evaluation category values;

generate a plurality of educational product alignment values, for indicating the alignment of each educational product to said business organization's goals with respect to employee training, for each of a plurality of educational products, based on a plurality of associated plurality of educational product evaluation category values obtained from the plurality of educational product evaluation category values source and the stored business goal rule data, , wherein an educational product evaluation category value represents at least one of tuition, duration, participant rating or a priority of course with a content area; and

generate, for each educational product of interest, an overall business alignment value based on the plurality of educational product alignment values; and to generate an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of the plurality of educational products values that include: a strategic importance alignment value, a cost effectiveness alignment value and an educational product impact alignment value; and

wherein the strategic importance alignment value is based on strategic importance priority level data of an educational content area and on at least course hours for the educational products associated with the educational content area; the cost effectiveness alignment value is based on at least a number of ours per educational product and a cost of the educational product; and the educational product impact alignment value is based on at least participant rating data and usage data associated with the educational, wherein said plurality of educational products includes at least one of an instructor led face-to-face course, a self-study course or a virtual course.

40. (Original) The storage medium of claim 39 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to present a content area importance table that visually differentiates each strategic importance priority level data for each educational content area.

41. (Original) The storage medium of claim 39 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to provide a cost threshold input interface operative to receive cost thresholds for different types of educational products.

42. (Original) The storage medium of claim 39 wherein the memory includes executable instructions that cause one or more processing devices to provide an educational product time input interface operative to receive time threshold data for different types of educational products.

43. (Previously Presented) An educational product evaluation apparatus comprising:

memory containing business goal rule data;

an educational product analyzer, operatively coupled to the memory, and further comprising:

a strategic importance generator operative to generate a strategic importance alignment value based on a plurality of associated strategic alignment category values and the business goal rule data, the business goal rule data representing a business organization's goals

with respect to employee training and wherein an educational product is at least one of an instructor led face-to-face course, a self-study course or a virtual course;

a cost effectiveness generator operative to generate a cost effectiveness alignment value based on associated cost effectiveness category values and based on the business goal rule data;

an educational product impact generator operative to generate an educational product impact alignment value based on a plurality of associated educational product impact category values and based on the stored business goal rule data;

an overall business alignment generator operatively coupled to the strategic importance generator, the cost effectiveness generator and the educational product impact generator, and operative to generate, on a per educational product basis, an overall business alignment value based on the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value; and

a multi-educational product summary generator, operatively coupled to the overall business alignment generator, and operative to generate an educational product summary containing at least the overall business alignment value for each of a plurality of educational products of interest and the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

44. (Original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the educational product summary contains visually coded representations of the strategic importance alignment value, the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

45.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the overall business alignment value is generated based on received weighting values associated with each of the cost effectiveness alignment value and the educational product impact alignment value.

46.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the educational product summary contains, for each educational product of interest, corresponding description data describing a level of each associated strategic importance alignment value, cost effectiveness alignment value and educational product impact alignment value.

47.   (Previously Presented) The educational product educational method of claim 5, wherein said business goal rule data includes at least a course duration limitation limiting the number of days a week an employee can participate in a course given required job related activities.